



## Fall 2001

# West SPA's Implementation of Proposition 36

# Westside Homeless Services

**See page 3 for 2001-02' COLD/WET WEATHER SHELTER PROGRAM INFORMATION**

## **Prop 36:** Continued from page 1

In order for Los Angeles County to successfully implement Prop. 36, the Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee (CCJCC) voted to establish a Prop. 36 Implementation Task Force to coordinate a collaborative strategy among the Court, Probation, Health Services Alcohol & Drug Program Administration (ADPA) and community-based treatment providers in the county. Their mission is to provide coordinated strategies to ensure that the criminal justice and treatment provider agencies in the county work together to effectively implement the provisions of the Act.

The County Board of Supervisors designated ADPA as the lead agency for administering the program. ADPA contracts with approximately 250 community-based substance treatment programs in Los Angeles County. These programs will serve as the foundation for providing treatment services for Prop. 36 program participants. Some of the local treatment providers currently participating in Prop. 36 in the West SPA are Clare Foundation, Didi Hirsch Community Mental Health Center Venice Program and Jewish Family Services Alcohol and Drug Program.

Initially, eleven Community Assessment and Service Centers (CASC) were contracted to provide clinical substance abuse assessments to participants using the Addiction Severity Index (ASI), a nationally recognized substance abuse assessment instrument. The assessment results help determine recommendations for level of treatment and placement in the community. The CASC then coordinates recommendations for treatment with the courts for West SPA, which include Los Angeles Airport, Santa Monica as well as the Los Angeles County Probation Department.

- ❖ A sophisticated information system is being developed to track statistical information such as:
- ❖ the number of offenders in the system,
- ❖ the number of offenders who do not show up at the CASC for assessment,
- ❖ the number of participants who have successfully completed the program, and
- ❖ the number of offenders who have dropped out.

Since July 1, the CASC in West SPA has been referred 99 defendants and provided 64 assessments and referrals (through mid-December) to the community based substance abuse providers in the county. The funding under Prop. 36 lasts until fiscal year 2005-06. After 2006, the state or the voters must appropriate additional funding for treatment or the mandates for treatment will continue without funding. Los Angeles County must show how effectively Prop. 36 is being implemented and collect data to provide for treatment outcomes and changes that are felt in the criminal justice system.

The Prop 36 implementation plan is a work in progress. Its success depends upon a collaboration of the criminal justice agencies and the treatment community. The plan must evolve to meet the needs of the participants, the criminal justice system, substance abuse treatment providers, public health and the community.

For further information on Prop. 36, you can contact Didi Hirsch C.M.H.C. Community Assessment and Service Center at 310-895-2339.

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## **Shigella Outbreak in a Westside Restaurant**

By Jennifer Kilburn, R.N., BSN

In September, a small fast-food Mexican restaurant located in West Los Angeles was under investigation by the Department of Health Services as the source of a Shigella outbreak. Shigella is a bacterium that affects the gastrointestinal system, often causing diarrhea, abdominal cramps, and fever. The onset of symptoms usually takes 1-3 days but in some cases it may take up to 7 days after the ingestion of bacteria for the symptoms to appear. Shigella can be found in the stool of infected people and bacterial transmission occurs if contaminated food or water is ingested.

Twenty-one persons who ate at the restaurant from September 10th through the 20th were interviewed; 17 of these patrons had symptoms consistent with Shigella. All 17 of these patrons reported diarrhea, abdominal cramps, and chills. Twelve of these 17 patrons submitted stool samples that tested positive for the bacteria; the other five were presumptive cases.

On September 25th all employees of the restaurant were interviewed and denied symptoms of Shigella. Inspection of the premises revealed hand washing violations, improper sanitization, and unclean surfaces and equipments. Stool specimens submitted by the restaurant employees were all negative.

The items consumed by all 21 persons included tacos, burritos, beans, chips, rice and condiments, such as salsa, onions, and cilantro. The individuals who became ill reported eating raw onions and cilantro, which were highly suspected as the source

of infection. Further investigation found numerous violations at the local warehouse that supplied the restaurant with the cilantro and onions. Consequently, the health department closed down this warehouse.

To help prevent the spread of Shigella, it is essential to practice thorough hand washing before preparing meals and after using the restroom. All raw fruits and vegetables must be carefully washed before being consumed. All hot food should be kept at 140 degrees or higher and all cold food should be kept at 41 degrees or lower in all commercial food establishments.

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## **2001 Flu Season**

By Farimah Fiali

West SPA Public Health Nursing thanks all those who helped administer flu shots this season. There were 4,790 shots given by Public Health in the West SPA at eight sites; last year 4,904 were delivered. This represents 2.3% decrease in shots from last year, likely due to the cancellation of one of the clinic sites.

# Environmental Health Homeless Food Delivery Program

By Terry Powell, Environmental Health

The Environmental Health Program has been engaged in several outreach and collaboration efforts throughout the county. In West SPA, the department has partnered with the Santa Monica Police Department and the City Attorney's Office in an effort to ensure the safe handling of food distributed to the homeless population. This revisits a previously unresolved issue of volunteers preparing and distributing meals to the homeless population in an unsafe manner.

While the idea of providing meals stems from good intentions, the provision of food handled in an unsafe manner presents an opportunity for foodborne illnesses to a population that is often deficient in good health and/or devoid of access to medical services.

Our goal is to instruct volunteer organizations regarding food safety and to coordinate with the city agencies involved in granting permission to use public space for the activities. Issues concerning available restrooms for the participants as well as hand washing facilities for food handlers, and appropriate trash removal are considerations. The program is currently in the development stages having recently held our first in a series of meetings in September.

## Intentional/Unintentional Injury and Older Adult Fact Sheets Completed

By Phillip Moore

The Epidemiology Unit has completed fact sheets for the West SPA community on intentional/unintentional injuries: one each for the general population and seniors. These are the first in a series of fact sheets that will be made available via hardcopy and on our web site. These sheets highlight specific data for the west health district only. Community members, health agencies, and school districts can benefit by using these sheets to enhance patient education, programmatic planning, grant applications and providing data for needs assessments. Other forthcoming fact sheet topics will include Childhood Asthma, Homelessness, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Diabetes, Mental Health and Alcohol/Substance Abuse. You can find the first of these fact sheets at: [www.lapublichealth.org/spa5](http://www.lapublichealth.org/spa5).

## Santa Monica City Council Approves Water Fluoridation

By Marsha Epstein, M.D.

The teeth won! The Santa Monica City Council voted 4-3 in favor of fluoridating the water in Santa Monica on October 23. On hand to speak in favor of fluoridation were Tim Collins, DDS, MPH, Chief of Public Health Dentistry, and Marsha Epstein, MD, MPH, Area Medical Director for West SPA. The water in Santa Monica is already partially fluoridated naturally, but this action will bring the level up to about 0.8 parts per million, which is the best level to protect teeth.

Everyone, especially children, older adults with receding gums and those who are homeless benefit from fully fluoridated water. Pain from abscessed teeth and nutritional problems caused when decayed teeth are pulled instead of filled, promote school absenteeism and possible learning problems.

There are no known side effects of fluoridated water. Numerous studies show fluoride to be safe for all age groups. The city will receive a grant from the California Endowment to pay for all the start-up costs for the system.

## 2001-02' COLD/WET WEATHER SHELTER PROGRAM INFORMATION

Call **INFO-LINE** at **1 (800) 339-6993** for all locations and activation information.

**FULL ACTIVATION - December 1, 2001 through March 15, 2002**

(There will be no "Weather Activation" phase on Westside this year.)

### SHELTER SITES:

<b>West L.A. Armory</b>	(310) 481-3901 Shelter Hours: 6pm - 7am	1300 Federal Avenue, L.A., CA 90073
<b>Culver City Armory</b>	(310) 845-9588 Shelter Hours: 6pm - 7am	10803 Culver Blvd., Culver City, CA 90230-3738

### PICK UP SITES AND TIME FOR WEST L.A. AREA:

<b>Westminster &amp; Pacific</b> @ Bus Stop/Venice (Northwest Corner of street(s))	<b>5:15pm</b> - both armories
<b>Step Up on Second</b> !!For Members Only!! @ corner of 2nd & Arizona (vacant parking lot)	<b>5:15pm</b> - both armories
<b>Access Center/OPCC</b> @ 1616 7th Street (cross street is Colorado)	<b>5:40pm</b> - Culver City
	<b>6:15pm</b> - West L.A.
	<b>6:40pm</b>

## West Service Planning Area Selected Reportable Diseases (Cases)

Disease	Jul-Sept 01	Jul-Sept 00
AIDS	11	14
Amebiasis	8	3
Campylobacteriosis	28	35
Chlamydial Infections	244	245
Encephalitis	1	2
Gonorrhea	84	90
Hepatitis Type A	19	16
Hepatitis Type B	0	3
Hepatitis Type C	0	1
Measles	0	0
Meningitis	1	0
Meningococcal Infections	0	1
Non-gonococcal Urethritis	33	49
Pertussis	3	0
Salmonellosis	24	28
Shigellosis	24	15
Syphilis, primary & secondary	2	0
Syphilis, early latent (<1 yr.)	0	1
Tuberculosis	11	7

Data provided by DHS' Public Health programs: Acute Communicable Diseases, Data Collection & Analysis, HIV/Epidemiology, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, and Tuberculosis Control.

## West SPA Health Team

Area Medical Director:	Marsha Epstein, MD, MPH
Administrator:	Phillip L. Moore III, MPA
Nurse Manager:	Audrey Goto, RN, PHN
Health Educator:	Ammini Williams, MA, MPH
Epidemiology Analyst:	Farimah Fiali
Public Health Investigator:	Carolyn Weinrieb
	Ali Farjadi
Public Health Nurses:	Maggie Cueva, RN, PHN, NP
	Beryl Inouye, RN, PHN
	Liz Kane, RN, PHN
	Jennifer Kilburn, RN, PHN
	Alice Brummett, RN, PHN, NP
	Mary Singaus, RN, PHN
	Deanna Ssutu, RN, PHN
Clinic Nurse:	Linda Flores, RN
Executive Secretary:	Ella Okonkwo
Clerical Support:	Rita Miller
Community Workers:	Sonia Fuentes
Registrar:	Yvette Veal

**Chronicle** is a quarterly publication of the West Service Planning Area (SPA 5). Phillip Moore III, MPA., is Editor-in-Chief. For additional information call (310) 998-3223.

[www.lapublichealth.org/spa5/](http://www.lapublichealth.org/spa5/)



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### Public Health Mission:

**To safeguard and improve the health of all Los Angeles County residents.**